

HEALTHY FAMILIES PROGRAM TRANSITION TO MEDI-CAL: BENEFIT COMPARISON

Background

As part of the Governor's 2012-13 Budget, the Healthy Families Program (HFP) recipients will transition to the Medi-Cal program beginning January 1, 2013. HFP is California's version of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which was created by the U.S. Congress in 1997. Approximately 875,000 HFP enrollees will transition to the Medi-Cal program over four phases.

Benefit Impacts

HFP and Medi-Cal have equivalent health benefits with a few exceptions. In most cases, the Medi-Cal benefits are more comprehensive than HFP. The main difference is that a Medi-Cal eligible child under the age of 21 has access to the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) program through which the child can receive benefits for "medically necessary" services that are otherwise limited or not covered by Medi-Cal in order to correct or ameliorate a condition. The Medi-Cal EPSDT medical necessity criteria is also broader than that set forth by the Healthy Families Program for seriously emotionally disturbed children, thus more children will be eligible for the full range of Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services. Additionally, Medi-Cal children will have access to the free Vaccines for Children federal program that provides free vaccines to doctors who serve eligible children 0 through 18 years of age. This will improve access to vaccines since providers will not have to purchase and distribute.

ELIGIBILITY	Healthy Families	Medi-Cal
Age limit	Until age 19	Until age 21

HEALTH BENEFITS	Healthy Families	Medi-Cal
Acupuncture	20 visits/benefit year*	2 visits/month
Biofeedback	Covered*	Covered
Blood and Blood Products	Covered	Covered
California Children's Services (CCS) Program Services	Covered	Covered
Cataract Spectacles and Lenses	Covered	Covered
Chiropractic Services	20 visits/benefit year*	2 visits/month
Clinical Cancer Trials	Covered	Covered
Diabetic Care	Covered	Covered
Diagnostic, X-Ray and Laboratory Services	Covered	Covered
Durable Medical Equipment	Covered	Covered
Emergency Health Care Services	Covered	Covered
Family Planning Services	Covered	Covered
Health Education	Covered	Covered

Home Health Care Services	Covered	Covered
Hospice	Covered	Covered
Inpatient Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment	Covered	Covered
Inpatient Hospital Services	Covered	Covered
Inpatient Mental Health Care Services	Covered	Covered
Maternity Care	Covered	Covered
Medical Transportation Services	Covered	Covered
Organ Transplants	Covered	Covered
Orthotics and Prosthetics	Covered	Covered
Outpatient Hospital Services	Covered	Covered
Outpatient Mental Health Care Services	Covered	Covered
Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapy	Covered	Covered
Prescription Drugs	Covered	Covered
Preventive Health Care Services	Covered	Covered
Reconstructive Surgery	Covered	Covered
Skilled Nursing Care	Covered	Covered

DENTAL BENEFITS	Healthy Families	Medi-Cal
Crown and Fixed Bridge	Covered	Covered
Dental Anesthesia and Palliative Care	Covered	Covered
Dental Emergency	Covered	Covered
Diagnostic and Preventive Care Services	Twice every 12 months	Once every 6 months per provider
Endodontic	Covered	Covered
Oral Surgery	Covered	Covered
Orthodontia Services	Only Covered through CCS Program	Covered
Periodontics	Covered	Covered
Removable Prosthetics	Covered	Covered
Restorative Dentistry	Covered	Covered

VISION BENEFITS	Healthy Families	Medi-Cal
Contact Lenses	Once every 12 months	Once every 24 months
Eye Examinations	Once every 12 months	Once every 24 months
Frames and Lenses	Once every 12 months	Once every 24 months
Low Vision - Severe Vision Problems	Covered	Covered

*Not all health plans provide this option.

References

Medi-Cal Provider Manual, Maximum Reimbursement for Optometry Services section

Medi-Cal Provider Manual, Optional Benefits Exclusion section

Medi-Cal Provider Manual, Denti-Cal Program section

Medi-Cal Manual of Criteria, Diagnostic Procedures (D0100-D0999)

Healthy Families Program and EPSDT Specialty Mental Health Services Comparison

Healthy Families – Free and Low-cost Health Care for Children and Pregnant Women pamphlet, July 2010.

Healthy Families Program Handbook – September 2011

Healthy Families Program Manual, Chapter 7, September 2011

Healthy Families Program website, Summary of Benefits section, accessed January 5, 2012

2011-2012 HFP Draft, Enclosure 2.b, Vision Plan Covered Benefits Matrix

2011-2012 HFP Draft, Enclosure 2.b, Health Plan Covered Benefits Matrix

2011-2012 HFP Draft, Enclosure 2.b, Dental Plan Benefits and Coverage Matrix

Medi-Cal State Plan, Limitations on Attachment 3.1-A, Dental Services subsection

